



# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Merry Margins

At press time, Tideland's board of directors was scheduled to meet to consider a general retirement of member capital credits. The retirement will be made during the month of December through a combination of checks and electric bill credits for qualifying members. We will send an email notice to members with details about the general retirement following its approval. See Page E for a detailed explanation about capital credits which represent your ownership equity in the cooperative.



## Sparking Innovation

In November, we visited classrooms across the East to surprise educators with this year's round of Bright Ideas grant funding. We continue to be impressed and in awe of the passion these teachers exhibit for their students and the potential that can be unlocked through creative, hands on lessons. We salute them all.

Read more on pages B, F and G.

Lauren Seber  
Fred A. Anderson Elementary





## 4 reasons not to use the on setting

Here are 4 reasons to avoid operating your HVAC system in the ON mode.

1. Higher energy costs: Since the fan is always running, you're using more energy than when the fan only runs when your system is heating or cooling.
2. More frequent repairs: When set to ON, the fan runs more. This can increase wear and tear on your blower and lead to costly blower repairs.
3. Increases humidity: Your AC won't dehumidify your home as well as it should, when the fan is set to ON.
4. Worsens air duct leakage: Most homes leak about 10% of the supply air and 12% of the return air through their duct system. So if the fan is blowing all the time, you're always losing your conditioned air, running up your energy bills.



Casey Schulte and family  
Bath Elementary

## Classroom innovators

### Tideland presents local educators with \$14,637 to fund creative projects

For nearly 30 years, Tideland EMC has helped brighten classroom learning through the annual award of Bright Ideas grants. The stars of the program are teachers who go the extra mile to research, write and submit their grant proposals in addition to their other classroom duties. They are motivated to do so by a desire to bring engaging and hands-on learning activities to their students for which funds would otherwise be lacking. Let's meet this year's winners:

#### Tami Wagaman Northside High School "Who Did It?"

Wagaman is excited to roll out a new Forensic Science class. Her classroom will in fact become a mock crime scene for students to investigate. Among the items funded by this grant are fingerprinting kits, footwear identification and casting kits, latent print kits, as well as blood spatter and hair analysis kits. Students will develop their own analytical and observation skills along with report writing while learning more about any number of real world career paths.



*continued on page F...*

# Tomorrow's leaders today

## Teens: Apply now for Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity. From the halls of Congress to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, youth tourists will explore the leadership lessons of our nation's history and be immersed in the cooperative principles that define Tideland EMC.

Application Deadline  
*January 20*

While on Youth Tour, all transportation, meals, admissions to events and lodging will be arranged and paid for by Tideland.

What are we looking for in a Youth Tour candidate? We're looking for someone who is outgoing and has

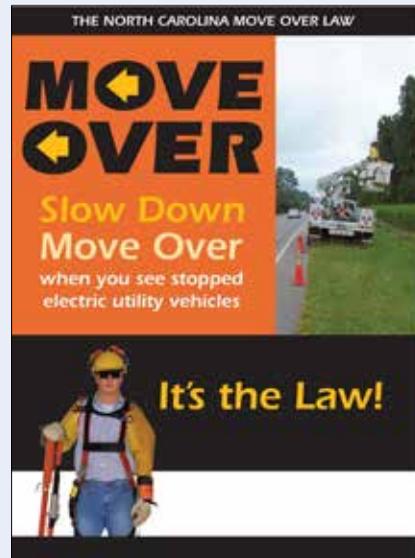
a demonstrated ability to work well with others. With nearly 1,600 young people from across the country participating in the event, we're looking for candidates eager to form new friendships, exchange ideas and find their own voice about the things they care about.

The Youth Tour dates for 2023 are June 11 through June 23. Applications must be received by Tideland EMC no later than January 21 and a winner(s) will be selected by January 31.

To apply students must reside in a home served by Tideland EMC and must currently be a high school sophomore or junior.

Applications have been mailed to Tideland area high schools or you can download the application at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).

## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule



Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During December, they will be trimming out the Blounts Creek and Bonneron circuits which feed out of our Edward substation.

Lee Electrical construction contractors will continue work in Scranton on the Rose Bay circuit, which feeds out of our Ponzer substation. Once complete, they will transition back to Maribel in Pamlico County.

Meter safety inspections will soon be wrapping up for those members served by our Edward substation. Then we will move on to Ocracoke.

Remember to support these important system maintenance operations that improve system reliability.



# Message to members

## Thoughts to wrap up 2022

PAUL SPRUILL  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As this issue of Tideland Topics went to press, we were tracking the path of a late season tropical system that, while not alarming, did have us clearly focused on our emergency response plan in the event of an impact to Tideland territory.

Thankfully, we have been spared a major storm for several years now. The fear however is that with absence comes some measure of complacency. Furthermore, we have members who are new to our coastal region and may not be well versed on steps to take before, during and after a hurricane. One need look no further than late September and early October when Hurricane Ian barreled through Florida before recurving into North Carolina as a tropical storm. Over 100 Floridians lost their lives. Another 5 North Carolinians also perished, with one as the result of carbon monoxide poisoning due to operation of a generator.

Ian proved to be fairly unpredictable days in advance and it was only in its final approach that the magnitude of the storm was fully in focus. Unfortunately, it was too late for a significant number of people to remove themselves from the eye of the storm. It would be fair to say that many have been lulled into a false sense of certainty due to advances in satellite technology and non-stop, up-to-the-minute meteorological reporting. However, preparedness doesn't turn on a dime even when destructive tropical systems do.

That remains one of our greatest areas of concern for members. We know all too well that the mere categorization of a hurricane does not determine the extent of damages in Tideland territory. One need look no further than Hurricane Irene, a CAT 1 storm, that due to its slow speed and arrival during high tide wiped entire homes away in Tideland territory. Likewise Hurricanes Florence and Dorian caused unimaginable destruction of hundreds of homes long considered comfortably beyond the reach of flood waters.

In the face of uncertainty, be certain about your family's plan of action. About your neighborhood's plan of action. You can be assured that your electric cooperative has a plan of action that is well informed by the worst case scenarios witnessed in recent years spanning from Texas to Louisiana and from Florida to our own Pamlico Sound. Imagining the unimaginable isn't much ado about nothing. It's proactive. It's protective. And nothing is more worth protecting than the lives of those we love.

We wish each of you the brightest of holiday seasons as the end of 2022 approaches. Please share the gift of safety in all that you do throughout Christmas and into the new year. Most of all, we thank you for the opportunity to provide service to you, your family, your business and all the communities that Tideland EMC touches. Your trust is a gift we value and will continue to build on in the year ahead.

## High School Seniors

*Time to apply*

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 3, 2023, to apply. An application may be downloaded at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).

For more information contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or [heidismith@tidelandemc.com](mailto:heidismith@tidelandemc.com).

# How CAPITAL CREDITS work

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative. Tideland members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of the co-op.

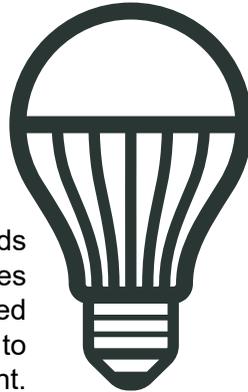


When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.



Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.

At the end of each year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated, based on percentage of electricity used, to the member's account.



The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance.



## ALLOCATION

An allocation is made annually for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased. An allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements & maintenance over a period of years thus reducing co-op borrowing costs.



Annually, the board of directors evaluates Tideland's financial condition to determine if we can retire capital credits and if so, what dollar amount. Part of that equation is the amount of capital credits already refunded year-to-date to the estates of deceased members.



When the board elects to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount to pay each member based on a percentage of the member's allocation for the year of service being retired.

Checks are mailed to members due a retirement of \$50 or more. For amounts less than \$50 or in the case of a delinquent account, the credit is applied to the member's December electric bill. Qualifying FlexPay members receive their credit on December 2.



Capital credits represent an important cooperative principle: **MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION** along with the return of local dollars to our hometown communities.

## RETIREMENT

A retirement is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by Tideland's board of directors based on the financial needs of the cooperative.



Principal Wayne Price and Washington County Early College students stand in the school's service project pantry that will soon expand to feed additional food-insecure children

**Danielle Banks  
Creekside Elementary  
"Little Coding Crocs"**

Students will learn the basics of coding language so they can program "Bee-Bots" that will be purchased with the grant funds. The robotic bees can carry out 200 consecutive commands including moving forward and backward and turning left and right. Learning accessories for the project include a Bee-Bot transportation map, alphabet mat, world map bundle and sequence cards.

**Lisa Baker  
Bath Elementary  
"AI Fresco Ed"**

An outdoor classroom will be created for students in grades K-5. The shared space will be utilized by approximately 150 students.



**Donna Whitfield  
Washington County Early College High School  
"WCECHS to 2023 YLA Conference"**

Students will attend the 2023 North Carolina Youth Legislative Assembly where they will see, experience and actually work through the legislative process of mock proposed bills to determine if the proposed bills should pass their respective legislative houses. Students even sit in the actual seats of the General Assembly to provide an even more authentic experience.

**Casey Schulte and Cara Lilley  
Bath Elementary  
"Flexing our Learning"**

Funds will be used to create a variety of collaborative and flexible learning spaces and seating alternatives to keep students engaged and attentive.

**Mary Alons  
Tyrrell Elementary  
"Touch Me"**

While the smallest grant awarded this year, Alons expects big rewards from the purchase of tactile and auditory books to serve the school's exceptional needs students.



**Brenda Tyndall  
Pamlico Christian Academy  
"It All Adds Up!"**

With a dozen years of academic instruction under its belt, Pamlico Christian Academy continues to work to build student resources. This grant will provide for the purchase of 10 Texas Instruments graphing calculators for the academy's high school students.



**Tracey Woodard  
Creekside Elementary  
"Insect Exploration"**

Kindergarten students in six classrooms will observe and explore the life cycles and behaviors of four different live insects: ladybugs, butterflies, praying mantises, and ants. Capitalizing on young learners' natural curiosity not only nurtures their desire to learn but encourages them to be more engaged with their own outdoor environment.



# More bright ideas!

**Susan Long**  
**Fred A. Anderson Elementary**  
**"Books for Everyone!"**

Building on the success of a previous Bright Ideas grant, additional sets of read along books will be purchased for Long's classroom.



**Lauren A. Seber**  
**Fred A. Anderson Elementary**  
**"One World. Many Stories."**

With her Bright Ideas grant, Lauren Seber will purchase 100 new books to sow the seeds for a substantive classroom library. Her goal is to develop reading fluency through self-directed reading.



**Ashley Sawyer**  
**Pamlico County Middle School**  
**"Boogie Down with Math!"**

Funds will be used to purchase 20 electronic Boogie Boards for classroom math lessons. Because the students have no math textbooks, the grant will also provide poly folders to secure the photocopied curriculum.

**Wayne Price and Jeannie McNair**  
**Washington County Early College High School**  
**"The Wolf Packers"**

Each Friday, WCECHS students pack book bags for 25 elementary school students identified by school social workers, guidance counselors, and principals as living in food insecure homes. Each bag contains enough food for the student to last a weekend or during extended school holidays like Thanksgiving. Our Bright Ideas grant will allow the students to expand the program to an additional elementary school in Washington County. Food items are individual serve products the child can manage without adult supervision. Students also author notes of encouragement for each of the anonymous recipients. If you would like to privately contribute to the students' feeding project please call 252.793.1327. This is a very impressive group of young people who want to make a difference in their community.



## Gift Giving made easy

Want to brighten the Christmas Season for someone special?

Give a **H.U.G.**  
A Home Utility Gift!

We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

We'll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift.

Call 1.800.637.1079 for details or visit any Tideland office.

## Rebate deadlines

As the year winds down be sure to complete and submit any rebate forms for qualified purchases and installations made during 2022. Rebates are available for high efficiency heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and Energy Star manufactured homes.

Rebate forms and program guidelines can be found online at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com)

## Adiso Anual *de No Discrimination*

De acuerdo con la ley federal de derechos civiles y las reglamentaciones y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA), se prohíbe al USDA, sus agendas, oficinas y empleados, e instituciones que participan o administran los programas del USDA, discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, religión, género, identidad de género (incluidas las expresiones de género), orientación sexual, discapacidad, edad, estado civil, estado familiar/parental, ingresos derivados de un programa de asistencia pública, creencias políticas, o reprimendas o represalias por actividades previas sobre derechos civiles, en cualquier programa o actividad llevados a cabo o financiados por el USDA (no todas las bases se aplican a todos los programas). Las fechas límite para la presentación de remedios y denuncias varían según el programa o el incidente.

Las personas con discapacidades que requieran medios alternativos de comunicación para obtener información sobre el programa (por ej., Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje americano de señas, etc.) deberán comunicarse con la Agenda responsable o con el Centro TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Transmisiones al (800) 877-8339. Asimismo, se puede disponer de información del programa en otros idiomas además de inglés. Para presentar una denuncia por discriminación en el programa, complete el Formulario de denuncias por discriminación en el programa del USDA, AD-3027, que se encuentra en línea en [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), o en cualquier oficina del USDA, o escriba una carta dirigida al USDA e incluya en la carta toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Para solicitar una copia del formulario de denuncias, llame al (866) 632-9992. Envíe su formulario completado o su carta al USDA por los siguientes medios:

- (1) correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; o
- (3) correo electrónico: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Tideland EMC es un proveedor, empleador y prestador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
  - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
  - (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

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## Holiday *Closings*

Our offices will be closed December 23 and 26 as well as January 2. Our 24-hour call center will be fully staffed for outage reporting and account management. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

